

Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert at the end of the specification, after page 65, new page 66 as follows:

ABSTRACT

The invention is directed to purified and isolated SIGIRR polypeptides and fragments thereof, the nucleic acids encoding such polypeptides, processes for production of recombinant forms of such polypeptides, antibodies generated against these polypeptides, fragmented peptides derived from these polypeptides, and uses thereof.